

CORRECTIONS STANDARDS AUTHORITY
600 BERCUT DRIVE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811
916-445-5073
WWW.CDCR.CA.GOV/DIVISION_SBOARDS/CSA



December, 10, 2010

Don. L. Meyer
Chief Probation Officer
Sacramento County Probation Department
9750 Business Park Drive, Suite #220
Sacramento, CA 95827

Dear Chief Meyer:

On December 9, 2010 Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) staff conducted a quarterly site visit of Sacramento County's Youth Detention Facility (YDF), pursuant to Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code §209(e). The purpose of the visit was to confirm the department's adherence to the April 27, 2007 Suitability Plan, which was required when the facility experienced chronically crowded conditions. We were pleased to meet and with Chief Deputy Chris Johnson and Assistant Chief Deputy Marty Matsuda who escorted us through the facility. This letter relates CSA's assessment of the totality of conditions of the facility during our visit.

At the time of our visit, twelve units were occupied with a total population of 228 minors. Those 12 housing units have a combined RC of 356. The facility and each of its units were below rated capacity (RC). This is consistent with the accounting of daily population we receive from the department each month. The last day of crowding experienced by any of the units, was April 11, 2007.

Before touring the facility and interviewing staff and minors, we spoke with Deputy Chief Johnson about some of the new programs and strategies designed to enhance the already effective approaches to population reduction. He shared the benefits of the recently implemented caseload assignments which offer more support and oversight to minors with Ricardo M. and Adult Court cases. Additionally, we learned of expanded authority for the population control officer to track and reduce the number of overrides of the detention intake risk tool.

During our walk through, we visited each unit, including those currently not occupied. The dayroom area in some of those units is utilized as extra program space, allowing specialized enrichment services to be provided to qualifying youth. One such program is the Skills, Training and Enrichment Program (STEP). We observed afternoon programming and spoke to staff and minors. Minors were involved in large muscle activities in the gymnasium and outdoor recreation space. On other units, preparations for the holiday decorating contest were underway. Conversations with approximately 7 staff and 13 minors reflected an overall positive impression

of conditions of confinement.

The CSA Board has asked that updates on crowding at YDF be presented every 6 months. Sacramento was last on the CSA Board agenda on September 9, 2010 and is scheduled to appear again at the March 10, 2011 meeting. Based on our visit of December 9, 2010 and data received, we will report to the CSA Board that Sacramento County's YDF remains suitable for the confinement of minors. Please continue to file population reports. In the event that the population levels of YDF exceed the totals established in the April 27, 2007 Suitability Plan, CSA will initiate the process for determining if the facility is suitable for the confinement of minors as described in W&I §209(e).

CSA staff continue to be available to you for technical assistance if requested.

Sincerely,

Toni Gardner, Field Representative
Facilities Standards and Operations Division
(916) 322-1638 toni.gardner@cdcr.ca.gov

Enclosure

Copy: Chris Johnson, Chief Deputy
Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Sacramento County
Chair, Sacramento County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission,
Chair, Board of Supervisors, Sacramento County
County Administrator, Sacramento County
County Counsel, Sacramento County